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AMENDMENT

(Amended Claims under Article 19)

Replacement Sheets for Claims

International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/006752

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Title: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, SOFTWARE
UPDATING SYSTEM, METHOD OF UPDATING SOFTWARE
AND PROGRAM THEREOF

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Claims amended according to PCT Article 19

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a center computer through a network, comprising:

5 sending means for sending a user identification information for identifying a user using the information processing apparatus to the center computer;

10 first obtaining means for obtaining from the center computer a plurality of location informations indicating locations of a plurality of storing regions that correspond to the user identification information sent by the sending means, out of a plurality of location informations of the plurality of storing regions that are made to correspond 15 to the user identification information of each of a plurality of users: the plurality of storing regions are provided on the network for storing update softwares for a plurality of softwares provided by a plurality of software vendors to the plurality of users;

20 second obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of lists of the plurality of update softwares by accessing to the plurality of storing regions storing the plurality of update softwares according to the plurality of location informations obtained by the first obtaining means;

25 judging means for judging whether there is any update softwares to be obtained by comparing the obtained list and the softwares currently being installed in the information

processing apparatus; and

third obtaining means, when the judging means judges that there are some update softwares to be obtained, for obtaining the update softwares by accessing to each of the storing regions storing the update softwares for each of the software judged to be updated according to each of the obtained location informations.

2. The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

10 wherein the update softwares are modules for updating softwares currently being installed in a plurality of the information processing apparatuses of the plurality of users that are made to correspond to the plurality of storing regions storing the update softwares; and

15 wherein the judging means has:

means for comparing the list of modules obtained from the storing regions storing the update softwares and the modules that are currently being installed in the information processing apparatus and forming a list of newer 20 versions of the modules than the modules currently being installed in the information processing apparatus out of the list of modules obtained from the storing regions storing the update softwares; and

means for presenting the formed list to the user and inputting a command to obtain the newer version of the modules;

wherein the second obtaining means obtains the newer

version of the modules when the command to obtain the newer version thereof is inputted.

3. The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

5 wherein the update softwares are modules that are currently not being installed and to be added in the information processing apparatus of the plurality of users and that are made to correspond to the storing regions storing the update softwares; and

10 wherein the judging means has:

means for comparing the list of modules obtained from the storing regions storing the update softwares and the modules that are currently being installed in the information processing apparatus, and forming a list of 15 modules that are currently not being installed in the information processing apparatus, and

means for presenting the formed list to the users and inputting a command to obtain the modules currently not being installed,

20 wherein the second obtaining means obtains the modules currently not being installed in the information processing apparatus when the command to obtain the modules currently not being installed is inputted.

4. The information processing apparatus as set forth in 25 claim 2, further comprising:

means for accessing to the storing regions storing update softwares and obtains a list of modules again by

accessing to the storing regions storing the update softwares according to the obtained location information when the command to obtain the modules is inputted; and means for re-forming the list of the newer version of modules according to the list obtained again;

wherein the second obtaining means obtains the newer version of the modules according to the re-formed list of modules.

5. The information processing apparatus as set forth in
10 claim 3, further comprising:

means for accessing to the storing regions storing update softwares and obtains a list of modules again by accessing to the storing regions storing the update softwares according to the obtained location information
15 when the command to obtain the modules is inputted; and

means for re-forming the list of the modules currently not being installed in the information processing apparatus according to the obtained list;

wherein the second obtaining means obtains the list
20 of modules currently not being installed according to the re-formed list of modules.

6. The information processing apparatus as set forth in
claim 1, further comprising:

means for previously storing a name of the software
25 that is being excluded from the judgment of judging whether there are any update softwares to be obtained; and

means for restricting updating softwares according to

the stored names of the software.

7. The information processing apparatus as set forth in
claim 1,

5 wherein the information processing apparatus is
capable of communicating with a link machine as a master
machine through the network; and

10 wherein the information processing apparatus has
means for having the link machine compare the list of modules
of the update softwares obtained from the storing regions
and the modules that is currently being installed in the
information processing apparatus and judge whether there
are any update softwares to be obtained, and when there are
some update softwares judged to be obtained, access to
storing region for each of the software judged to be obtained
15 according to each of the obtained location informations and
obtain the necessary update softwares from the storing
regions storing the update softwares.

20 8. A system that a center computer and an information
processing apparatus of a user is capable of communicating
through a network:

wherein the center computer has:

25 means for previously putting away update softwares for
a plurality of softwares provided to a plurality of users
by a plurality of software vendors in a plurality of storing
regions storing a plurality of update softwares that are
provided on the network so that each of the storing regions
corresponds to each of a plurality of location informations

indicating a location of each of the plurality of storing regions for each of the update softwares and a plurality of user identification informations of each of the plurality of users,

5 receiving means for receiving the user identification information from the information processing apparatus, and referencing means for having the information processing apparatus refer to the location information of the storing regions for update softwares that corresponds to the user identification information when the user 10 identification information is received by the referencing means;

wherein the information processing apparatus of the user has:

15 sending means for sending the user identification information to the center computer,

first obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of location informations indicating locations of a plurality of storing regions that corresponds to the user 20 identification information sent by the sending means,

second obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of lists of the plurality of update softwares by accessing to the plurality of storing regions storing the plurality of update softwares according to the plurality of location 25 informations obtained by the first obtaining means,

judging means for judging whether there is any update softwares to be obtained by comparing the obtained list and

the softwares currently being installed in the information processing apparatus, and

third obtaining means, when the judging means judges that there are some update softwares to be obtained, for 5 obtaining the update softwares by accessing to each of the storing regions storing the update softwares for each of the software judged to be updated according to each of the obtained location informations.

9. The system as set forth in claim 8,
10 wherein the plurality of storing regions storing the update softwares are provided for each of the plurality of software vendors,

wherein the means for putting the plurality of update softwares to the plurality of storing regions for update 15 softwares by each of a plurality of different softwares provided by each of the plurality of software vendors so that each of the plurality of software updates corresponds each of the plurality of location informations for each of the update softwares and each of the plurality of user 20 identification informations;

wherein the first obtaining means obtains each of the location informations for each of the software storing regions storing update softwares corresponding to the user identification information, and

25 wherein the second obtaining means and the third obtaining means access to each of the plurality of storing regions storing update softwares according to each of the

plurality of location informations.

10. The system as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the means for previously putting the plurality
of update softwares in the plurality of storing regions
5 storing update softwares so that each of a combination or
a plurality of combinations out of the different softwares
provided by the plurality of software vendors corresponds
to the plurality of location informations of each of the
plurality of storing regions for each of the update softwares
10 and the user identification information of each of the
plurality of users.

11. (Amended) A method of updating a software installed
in an information processing apparatus capable of
communicating with a center computer through a network,
15 comprising:

sending an user identification information for
identifying an user using the information processing
apparatus to the center computer;

obtaining from the center computer a plurality of
20 location informations indicating locations of a plurality
of storing regions that correspond to the user
identification information sent by the sending means, out
of a plurality of location informations of the plurality
of storing regions that are made to correspond to the user
identification information of each of a plurality of users:
25 the plurality of storing regions are provided on the network
for storing update softwares for a plurality of softwares

provided by a plurality of software vendors to the plurality of users;

accessing to the plurality of storing regions for update softwares according to the received plurality of 5 location informations and obtaining a plurality of lists of software to be updated from the plurality of storing regions storing update softwares;

judging whether there are any update softwares to be obtained by comparing the list of the update softwares and 10 the softwares currently being installed in the information processing apparatus; and

obtaining necessary update softwares from the storing regions storing update softwares for each of the software judged to be obtained by accessing to each of the storing 15 regions storing update softwares according to the location information when there is an update software judged to be obtained.

12. (Amended) A program for causing an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a center computer through a network to execute a processing, the 20 processing comprising:

a sending step for sending an user identification information for identifying an user using the information processing apparatus to the center computer;

25 an obtaining step for obtaining from the center computer a plurality of location informations indicating locations of a plurality of storing regions that correspond

to the user identification information sent by the sending means, out of a plurality of location informations of the plurality of storing regions that are made to correspond to the user identification information of each of a plurality of users: the plurality of storing regions are provided on the network for storing update softwares for a plurality of softwares provided by a plurality of software vendors to the plurality of users;

an accessing step for accessing to the plurality of storing regions for update softwares according to the received plurality of location informations and obtaining a plurality of lists of software to be updated from the plurality of storing regions storing update softwares;

a judging step for judging whether there are any update softwares to be obtained by comparing the list of the update softwares and the softwares currently being installed in the information processing apparatus; and

an obtaining step for obtaining necessary update softwares from the storing regions storing update softwares for each of the software judged to be obtained by accessing to each of the storing regions storing update softwares according to the location information when there is an update software judged to be obtained.